GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1459
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008
PROTECTION OF MAJULI RIVER ISLAND
Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had recently called a review meeting to assess the damage caused to Majuli river island by way of erosion and flood devastation;

(b) if so, the nature and extent of damage to Majuli by the floods and erosion; and

(c) the central assistance sought and given to restore glory of this unique river island?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES(SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) The Hon`ble Prime Minister reviewed the action taken by the Government to counteract the erosion of the Majuli Island in the Brahmaputra River on 29th October, 2007 at New Delhi.

(b) In the meeting, the reasons for erosion of Majuli Island due to Brahmaputra river and the actions needed to address the issue were reviewed. It was also indicated that there had been a gradual but steady erosion of the Island which has led to the reduction in Vaishnavite monasteries to 22 at present.

(c) The Brahmaputra Board has undertaken the measures for protection of Majuli Island from flood and erosion. Upto January, 2008, the following expenditure has been incurred by Brahmaputra Board from the Central grants:
1. Protection of Majuli - Immediate measure :- 5.92 crores.
2. Protection of Majuli - Phase-I:- 27.90 crores.
In addition to the above, Brahmaputra Board has placed a requirement of Rs. 7.94 crores for meeting the expenditure towards the payment against the completed works related to Majuli protection during the current year. The funds to the Brahmaputra Board are provided during the current financial year under the scheme `River Management Activities and works related to Border Rivers` through which the expenditure on Majuli Protection works is also met. During the current year (2007-08), an amount of Rs. 32.50 crore has been released to Brahmaputra Board under the scheme.